

klassifikation der sozialen Vespiden, 467, xxxvi, 303-330. **Graenicher, S.**—Wisconsin bees of the genus *Perdita*. Geographical distribution and relations to flowers, 4, 1914, 51-57. **Kieffer, J. J.**—Trois nouveaux Dryinides, 87, 1914, 90-91. **Morice, F. D.**—Illustrations of specific differences in the saws of female Dolerids, 36, 1913, 428-35. **Silvestri, F.**—(See under Diptera.) **Viereck, H. L.**—Type species of the genera of ichneumon flies, 174, No. 83, 186 pp.

CECIDOMYIIDAE, by J. J. KIEFFER, *Genera Insectorum*, Fascicle 152, pp. 346, pls. 15, 1913.

This comprehensive work lists some 2500 species and 330 genera from all parts of the world. It is more than a list of the species, since it is a generic synopsis and contains keys for the separation of the various groups. It is well printed, the plates are admirably executed and the copious three-column index, occupying 19 quarto pages, makes the contents most accessible. The work has been prepared by one who has spent years of productive labor upon the group and has probably seen more genera and species of gall midges than any one else. The classification in this generic synopsis and list of species should therefore represent the latest and most advanced taxonomic ideas. The following tabulation gives the author's arrangement in outline and may be advantageously scrutinized:

SYNOPSIS OF KIEFFER'S CATALOGUE OF CECIDOMYIIDAE.

| SUBFAMILIES AND TRIBES | NUMBER OF GENERA | NUMBER OF MONOTYPIC GENERA | NUMBER OF SPECIES |
|------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| CECIDOMYINAE | 285 | 176 | 2302 |
| Lasiopterariae | 16 | 6 | 231 |
| Oligotrophiariae | 49 | 34 | 678 |
| Asphondyliariae | 16 | 9 | 171 |
| Brachyneuriariae | 22 | 13 | 44 |
| Cecidomyiariae | 157 | 104 | 991 |
| Porricondylariae | 25 | 10 | 187 |
| LESTREMINAE | 32 | 19 | 185 |
| Campylomyzariae | 24 | 14 | 151 |
| Strobliellariae | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Lestremiariae | 7 | 4 | 33 |
| HETEROPEZINAE | 14 | 11 | 28 |
| GRAND TOTAL | 331 | 206 | 2515 |

The subfamilies remain about as they have been in recent years. There are some changes in the Cecidomyiinae with which we are not in full sympathy. One is the combination of the *Dasyneuriariae* with

the Oligotrophiariae. This earlier separation was one we found very convenient and, on the whole, satisfactory, though there are some intermediate forms which are not easily placed. The occurrence of the latter by no means invalidates the division, since as our knowledge increases other perplexing genera will doubtless be discovered. The raising of *Brachyneura* Rond. to tribal rank and its placement with the Cecidomyiinae, all turn on the characteristics of *B. fuscogrisea* Rond., the generic type. We have been able to discover no evidence that this form possesses circumfili, and the latter certainly is not true of American species we have referred to *Brachyneura*. Granting for a moment that this genus possesses the structures and is properly located and raised to tribal rank, we are then confronted by the fact that the author has placed here such genera as *Kronomyia* Felt and *Haplusia* Karsch, forms without circumfili. The tribe, as given in this synopsis, contains some discordant elements.

We heartily endorse the reference of *Aplonyx* De Stefani to the Lasiopterariae and dissent somewhat to the inclusion in this tribe, of *Camptoneuromyia* Felt, a somewhat synthetic genus with, it seems to us, more affinities with the Oligotrophiariae (our Dasyncuriariae) of this list. The separation of *Prolasioptera* on account of the entire ventral plate, and particularly because of the dorsal group of chitinous hooks on the apex of the ovipositor, does not seem justified, in view of the fact that this combination of characters is not constant in American forms, and especially as the peculiar hooks appear in species referable to both *Lasioptera* and *Neolasioptera*. We likewise confess skepticism as to the validity of *Meunierella* Kieff., at least so far as indicated by the American species the author referred to this genus.

The Oligotrophiariae of this list comprise a large number of genera and introduce some radical departures from the earlier classification. We find *Rhopalomyia* Rubs. restricted to forms possessing reticulate circumfili and unarticulate palpi. The reduction of the palpi indicates within certain limits the degree of specialization, though it happens that in the American forms there is such evident diversity in these organs that we can not bring ourselves to believe such close division advisable, since a rigid application of this rule might, with certain American species, necessitate the referring of one-half of an insect to *Misopatha* Kieff. and the other to *Panteliola* Kieff., though we readily admit that in many instances the number of palpal segments is a character of great value in separating allied genera. In practice we have been unwilling in *Rhopalomyia* and its allies, to separate species simply because of a divergence in the number of palpal segments, and have always looked for some confirmatory character. A similar condition obtains, so far as American forms are concerned, in the

reference to a new genus, of a number of species of *Asphondylia* because of the uniaarticulate palpi. In the Porricondylariae we have an analogous condition in the author erecting *Winnertziola* upon characters which, in American forms, have proved inconsistent in their association, and we consequently believe that this name must become a synonym of *Winnertzia*.

In connection with generic limitation we find, on referring to the above tabulation, that nearly two-thirds, namely, 206, of the genera listed are monotypic. This very large proportion is undoubtedly due in part to the fact that a number of these genera represent forms from countries where the fauna is comparatively unknown, such as Africa and India. Greater familiarity with the gall midges in these regions will undoubtedly show that some of these monotypic genera are representatives of considerable series. Eliminating these from consideration, we would raise a question on general principles as to the advisability of adopting a classification which necessitates so many monotypic genera. Our familiarity with American forms indicates that some of these later divisions must be relegated to synonymy. The disposition of such genera in faunae with which we are unfamiliar can be determined only by a careful study of the material. Excessive division can be easily remedied by consolidation later, and we must certainly credit the author with an honest endeavor to outline the facts as they appear to him. In this connection we would simply voice a sentiment in favor of proposing generic names, only so far as may be necessary for the recognition of well marked groups, rather than the establishment of new concepts simply to indicate minor variations. The many and varied forms of gall midges emphasize the need of conservatism along these lines.

The author, in some instances, specifies the generic type, while in other cases the matter is ignored. We regret an apparent tendency to reduce some of the older genera to synonymy by grouping species under later names. This is a matter where the student must use his judgment to a considerable extent. We have favored wherever possible, the policy of validating and establishing the older generic names, because such procedure tended to reduce the synonyms now so burdensome in many groups. We find a curious condition respecting *Trotteria*, a genus originally defined in 1892 by Rubsaamen as *Choristoneura*. The only species mentioned at the time was *obtusa* Lw. This genus being preoccupied, a new name was proposed in 1897 by Kieffer and three species mentioned, one of which (not the one before the original author of the genus) is cited as type. This we believe to be irregular and a procedure not warranted by the International code.

The author has made an attempt to define the subfamily, tribal and

generic characters of the larvae. He has done more along this line than any one else, and his efforts in this direction warrant the heartiest approbation. It is at best a difficult subject.

Aside from general taxonomic matters outlined above, we must call attention to the occurrence of numerous typographical and clerical errors, a portion of which are probably attributable to the printer. These, while annoying and involving additional labor for the users of the list are, for the most part, readily eliminated. Without attempting to call attention to all the errors, we would simply state that on page 23, *Neolasioptera squamosella* and *N. subsquamosa* are *nomina nuda*, the first being based on an erroneous citation, and the second partly due to the writer's inadvertence in allowing the letters "n. sp." to remain after a detailed characterization of a species established originally in a tabulation. The identity of our numbers, if the two had been compared (which should certainly have been done prior to the proposing of a new name), should have indicated a probable identity to the compiler. A similar blunder is perpetrated in the proposal of *N. agrostidis*, for which the writer is likewise partly responsible. There are some inconsistencies in forms of citation. The author fails to distinguish in all cases between the pagination of separates and entire works; volume or bulletin numbers are sometimes transposed, and there is an occasional orthographical error, the latter apparently being relatively scarce.

The generic references of American species represent, in the main, conditions obtaining in 1908, a period when our classification was in a tentative form. Later studies have resulted in the erection of some new genera, with consequent division of species and, in a number of instances, the compiler has not obtained access to the later data. In spite of these defects, all minor in character, this work must prove of great service to all interested in the general study of gall midges, and the author, in its compilation, has laid his associates under heavy obligations.—E. P. FELT.

Doings of Societies.

AMERICAN ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

Meeting of October 23, 1913. Dr. Calvert, President, in the chair. Eight persons were present. The President announced the deaths of Dr. Horace Jayne and Prof. P. R. Uhler, members of the Society.

Mr. Rehn made some remarks on the results of three Orthoptera-collecting trips to the Florida Keys and extreme southern